

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) Method ~~according to Claim 9~~, of muffling the noise of successive components, by which an intermediate layer is placed between the two components, which are spaced away from one another at least in regions, and by which method, as a result of the intermediate layer, sound transmission and/or vibration transmission from one component into the other is reduced, said method comprising:

inserting an air cushion as the intermediate layer; and

expanding the air cushion so that the air cushion rests at least indirectly against at least one surface respectively of each of the components;

wherein, in a motor vehicle, particularly a passenger car or a truck, a gas space of the air cushion is fluidically connected with a blower, particularly with a heater and/or an air conditioner; and

wherein warm air and/or air-conditioned air is caused to flow through gas passage openings arranged in a cover of the air cushion into the vehicle occupant compartment of the motor vehicle.

11-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) Noise absorber ~~according to Claim 17~~, for

successive components, which noise absorber is arranged between two components arranged away from one another at least in regions;

wherein the noise absorber is at least one air cushion which is expandable so that it rests at least indirectly on at least one surface respectively of each of the components;

wherein the air cushion is fluidically connected with a gas-feeding blower;
and

wherein, in a motor vehicle, particularly a passenger car or a truck, the blower is connected with a heater and/or air conditioner.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A passenger motor vehicle assembly ~~according to claim 21,~~ comprising:

two vehicle components spaced from one another; and
an air cushion placed between the vehicle components and having respective air cushion cover surface sections;

wherein said air cushion includes an internal cavity connectable with a pressure source operable to increase pressure in the cavity and press said cover surface sections toward the respective components so that said cover surface sections contact the respective components when in an installed position thereby forming a sound muffling assembly between the components;

wherein a pressure source is provided for increasing the pressure in the cavity; and

wherein the pressure source is a blower of a vehicle air conditioning system.

23. (Original) A passenger motor vehicle assembly according to claim 22, wherein one of said components faces an interior passenger space of a vehicle.

24-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 26, of muffling~~ noise transfer between two passenger vehicle components which are spaced from one another, comprising:

placing an air cushion between the vehicle components with respective air cushion cover surface sections facing respective ones of the components; and

subsequently applying pressure to said air cushion to thereby force the cover surface sections toward an operating position in which the cover surface sections rest against the vehicle components;

wherein applying pressure includes directing air flow from an air conditioner to said air cushion.